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Dated 13 August 2003

26 JUN 2003

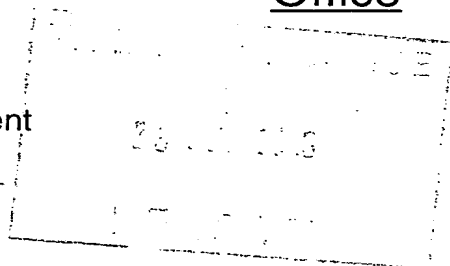
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26JUN03 E818084-1 000611
P01/7700 0.00-0314904.4

Request for grant of a patent



The Patent Office
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Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales NP10 8QQ

1.	Your reference	GB920020092GB1		
2.	Patent application number <i>(The Patent Office will fill in this part)</i>	0314904.4		
3.	Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant <i>(underline all surnames)</i>	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION Armonk New York 10504 United States of America		
	Patents ADP number <i>(if you know it)</i>	519637001		
	If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation	State of New York United States of America		
4.	Title of the invention	A SYSTEM FOR MANAGING A COMPONENT		
5.	Name of your agent <i>(if you have one)</i>	R D MOSS		
	"Address for Service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent <i>(including the postcode)</i>	IBM United Kingdom Limited Intellectual Property Department Hursley Park Winchester Hampshire SO21 2JN		
	Patents ADP number <i>(if you know it)</i>	919006		
6.	If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and <i>(if you know it)</i> the or each application number	Country	Priority App No <i>(if you know it)</i>	Date of filing <i>(day/month/year)</i>
7.	If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date or the earlier application	No of earlier application	Date of filing <i>(day/month/year)</i>	

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:
a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
c) any named applicant is a corporate body.) Yes

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description 6 /
Claim(s) 3 /
Abstract 1 /
Drawing(s) 1 +1

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77) 5 /

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

R. D. Moss

Signature

24 June 2003
Date

R D MOSS

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom A Sekar
01962 818169

26 JUN 2003

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Statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference GB920020092GB1
2. Patent application number
(if you know it) 0314904.4
3. Full name of the or of each applicant INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION
4. Title of invention A SYSTEM FOR MANAGING A COMPONENT
5. State how the applicant(s) derived the right
from the inventor(s) to be granted a patent By employment and agreement
6. How many, if any, additional Patents Forms
7/77 are attached to this form? 1

I/We believe that the person(s) named over the page (and on any extra copies of this form) is/are the inventor(s) of the invention which the above patent application relates to.

R. D. Moss

Signature

24 June 2003
Date

R D MOSS

8. Name and daytime telephone number of
person to contact in the United Kingdom A Sekar
Tel: 01962 818169

Patents Form 7/77

Enter the full names, addresses and postcodes of the inventor in the boxes and underline the surnames

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Patents ADP number (if known)

7840762001

Patents ADP number (if known)

If there are more than three inventors, please write their names and addresses on the back of another Patents Form 7/77 and attach it to this form

Patents ADP number (if known)

REMINDER

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A SYSTEM FOR MANAGING A COMPONENT**FIELD OF INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a system for managing a component.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Consumer devices (e.g. mobile telephones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) etc.) are becoming more and more popular. Furthermore, with the convergence of devices (e.g. mobile phones providing PDA capabilities and vice versa), the ability to run more sophisticated applications on the devices is increasing.

Users are becoming dependent on their devices and therefore expect a level of reliability and stability from their devices. At the same time, many users of these devices do not have the skills to make decisions about performance tuning, problem resolution etc. and in any case, users do not want to get involved in maintenance of their devices.

Therefore, there is a need for a mechanism that allows devices to be simple to use, with little maintenance required by the user. There is also a need for a mechanism that allows a component (e.g. an application) to be managed without causing disruption to the normal running of the device.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

According to a first aspect, the present invention provides a system for managing at least one parameter associated with a first-component, wherein the at least one parameter comprises at least three values corresponding to a minimum value and a maximum value together representing a range and a variable value, the system comprising: a data structure comprising data associated with the at least one parameter, means for accessing the data structure, means for monitoring the variable value, and means, responsive to the variable value lying within the range, for managing the at least one parameter.

Preferably, the at least one parameter represents a resource associated with the system (e.g. memory attributes, security attribute, CPU attributes etc.). In a preferred embodiment, the system further comprises means, responsive to the variable value lying outside the range, for invoking an action. In one embodiment, the action comprises a re-launch of the first component.

Aptly, there is provided means for updating the data structure with the data, when the first component is launched. More aptly, a second component comprises the means for accessing, the means for monitoring and the means for managing. Still more aptly, the system comprises means for notifying the second component of events associated with the first component.

In a preferred embodiment, the system comprises means for initialising the parameter, wherein upon initialisation, the variable value represents an initial value. Preferably, when the first component is launched, the variable value represents a current value. More preferably, the data structure further comprises data associated with whether the first component is a critical component. Still more preferably, the system further comprises means for engaging with a pervasive device (e.g. a PDA, a mobile telephone etc.).

Advantageously, the present invention allows parameters associated with a component as defined at install time to be exploited, to provide a level of component management. Beneficially, users do not need to become heavily involved in the process.

It should be understood that the component can be a device, application program, process, service etc. It should be understood that the parameters represent parameters that govern the component's running characteristics (e.g. security attributes, compression attributes, display attributes etc.).

According to a second aspect, the present invention provides a method for use in a data processing system for managing at least one parameter associated with a first component, wherein the at least one parameter comprises at least three values corresponding to a minimum value and a maximum value together representing a range and a variable value, the system comprising a data structure having data associated with the at least one parameter, the method comprising the steps of: accessing the data structure, monitoring the variable value, and in response to the variable value lying within the range, managing the at least one parameter.

According to a third aspect, the present invention provides a computer program comprising program code means adapted to perform the method as described above when said program is run on a computer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to preferred embodiments thereof, as illustrated in the following drawing:

FIG. 1 shows a system in which the present invention may be implemented.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

An overview of one system (100) in which the present invention may be implemented, is shown in FIG. 1. The system (100) comprises a component manager (105), a first component (i.e. an application manager (110)) and a second component (i.e. an application (115)). It should be understood that the application manager (110) is essentially another application in the system.

Preferably, the component manager (105) is responsible for managing the operating environment in the system (100). The component manager (105) and the application manager (110) access a data structure (120) holding data associated with the application (115) and the application manager (110). The way in which the entities interact with each other and with the data structure (120) will now be described.

Preferably, the application manager (110) is responsible for applications (115) that are installed in the system (100) and it communicates with the component manager (105). Preferably, the application manager (110) is responsible for installing and launching an application (115), as well as updating data associated with an application (115) (as will be described later). Preferably, the system (100) comprises means for notifying the component manager (105) of various events associated with a component. For example, a component's start time; a component's end time; when a component abnormally ends.

Preferably, the data associated with a component is defined by the application developer. When a component is launched, the system (100) comprises means for updating the data structure (120) with the data associated with the component. Preferably, for an application (115), the application manager (110) updates the data structure (120) and for the application manager (110), the component manager (105) updates the data structure (120).

Preferably, the data comprises one or more parameters. Examples of parameters held in the data structure (120) include: security information

(e.g. access rights); usage statistics and resource requirements (e.g. memory, CPU requirements). These can be thought of as Quality of Service parameters. Preferably, other pieces of data are also included in the data structure (120), namely, the component name, location of the component (e.g. disk location, URL address, etc.) and whether it has been registered as critical or not.

Each parameter is specified as a triplet of values, comprising a minimum value; a maximum value and a third value (i.e. a variable value) representing an initial value or a current value. It should be understood that the applicant envisages the scope of the term parameter to encompass any parameter that defines a component's running characteristics. It should also be understood that the values used herein are for example purposes only.

In a first example, parameters are associated with an application (115), namely memory (in Kbytes) and error. Preferably, before application launch time, each parameter is initialized. The parameter comprises a minimum value, a maximum value and a third value, representing an initial or ideal value.

```
Memory[Min] := 2;  
Memory[Max] := 8;  
Memory[Use] := 4;
```

```
Error[Min] := 0;  
Error[Max] := 2;  
Error[Use] := 0;
```

Now, the application (115) is launched and the application manager (110) informs the component manager (105) of the launch. At this stage, the third value is updated to a current (i.e. actual) value.

Preferably, the component manager (105) monitors (i.e. reads) the current value. In this example, the current value for memory is 5 and although the current value for memory does not match the initial value, the value lies within the bounds defined and the component manager (105) therefore allows the allocation of 5 Kbytes of memory to the application (115). Note, that the data associated with the memory parameter is updated to reflect the new current value.

Next, the current value for memory increases to 9, causing an action to be invoked, the action indicating that the current value lies outside of

the bounds defined for that parameter. Preferably, the application (115) is then aborted by the component manager (105).

5 In one embodiment, the component manager (105) checks the data structure (120) in order to determine whether the application (115) is a critical application. If the application (115) has not been registered as critical, preferably, the component manager (105) does not take action. However, if the application (115) has been registered as critical, preferably the component manager (105) takes action. In one example, the
10 component manager (105) checks to see whether it can fulfil the memory request (e.g. by freeing resource elsewhere). In the case where resources are not available, preferably, the component manager (105) invokes an action, the action indicating that a critical component cannot be started. In the case where resources are available, preferably, the component
15 manager (105) calls the application manager (110) to re-launch the application (115). On re-launch, the current value of the memory parameter is updated to 9 and the current value of the error parameter is incremented by one, to indicate that an error has occurred.

20 In another embodiment, upon failure of an application (115), a further check is made, namely, if the current system clock time (e.g. 15:00) falls within the application's (115) run time (e.g. between 09:00-17:00). As described above, the component manager (105) is notified of the application's (115) run time (i.e. application start time;
25 application end time). If the application (115) is critical and if the system clock time falls within the application's (115) run time, preferably, the component manager (105) calls the application manager (110) to re-launch the application (115). On re-launch, the third value of the error parameter is incremented by one, to indicate that an error has
30 occurred. If the application (115) is not critical and if the system clock time does not fall within the application's (115) run time, preferably, the component manager (105) does not take action.

35 In a second example, a parameter is associated with the application manager (110), namely, error. In this example, the application manager (110) has also been registered as critical. Preferably, before launch time of the application manager (110), the parameter is initialized. For the parameter, a minimum acceptable value, a maximum acceptable value and a third value is specified. At this stage, the third value represents an
40 initial or ideal value.

```
Error[Min] := 0;  
Error[Max] := 1;  
Error[Use] := 0;
```

Now, the application manager (110) is launched and the third value represents a current (i.e. actual) value. The parameter data in the data structure (120) is updated to reflect this, and the component manager (105) has access to this data. Preferably, the component manager (105) monitors (i.e. reads) the current value. In this example, the current value is 0, which is within the defined range and therefore processing continues.

Next, the current value is 2, causing the application manager (110) to fail because the current value lies outside of the bounds defined for that parameter. Preferably, notice of this abnormal termination is sent to the component manager (105) and because the current value lies outside of the bounds defined for that parameter, the component manager (105) preferably invokes an action, the action indicating that a critical component cannot be started.

Advantageously, the component manager (105) exploits parameters associated with a component as defined at install time, to provide a level of component management.

CLAIMS

5 1. A system for managing at least one parameter associated with a first component, wherein the at least one parameter comprises at least three values corresponding to a minimum value and a maximum value together representing a range and a variable value, the system comprising:

10 a data structure comprising data associated with the at least one parameter,

means for accessing the data structure,

15 means for monitoring the variable value, and

means, responsive to the variable value lying within the range, for managing the at least one parameter.

20 2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one parameter represents a resource associated with the system.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising means, responsive to the variable value lying outside the range, for invoking an
25 action.

4. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the action comprises a re-launch of the first component.

30 5. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising means for updating the data structure with the data, when the first component is launched.

6. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a second
35 component comprises the means for accessing, the means for monitoring and the means for managing.

7. A system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising means for
40 notifying the second component of events associated with the first component.

8. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising means for initialising the parameter, wherein upon initialisation, the variable value represents an initial value.

9. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein when the first component is launched, the variable value represents a current value.

5 10. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the data structure further comprises data associated with whether the first component is a critical component.

10 11. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprises means for engaging with a pervasive device.

12. A method for use in a data processing system for managing at least one parameter associated with a first component, wherein the at least one parameter comprises at least three values corresponding to a minimum value and a maximum value together representing a range and a variable value, the
15 data processing system comprising a data structure having data associated with the at least one parameter, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing the data structure,

20 monitoring the variable value, and

in response to the variable value lying within the range, managing the at least one parameter.

25 13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the at least one parameter represents a resource associated with the system.

30 14. A method as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13, further comprising the step of invoking, in response to the variable value lying outside the range, an action.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the action comprises a re-launch of the first component.

35 16. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 15, further comprising the step of updating the data structure with the data, when the first component is launched.

40 17. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 16, wherein the means for accessing, the means for monitoring and the means for managing are executed by a second component.

18. A method as claimed claim 17, further comprising the step of notifying the second component of events associated with the first component.

5 19. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 18, further comprising the step of initialising the parameter, wherein upon initialisation, the variable value represents an initial value.

10 20. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 19, wherein when the first component is launched, the variable value represents a current value.

15 21. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 20, wherein the data structure further comprises data associated with whether the first component is a critical component.

22. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 21, further comprising the step of engaging with a pervasive device.

20 23. A computer program comprising program code means adapted to perform the method of any of claims 12 to 22 when said program is run on a computer.

ABSTRACT

A SYSTEM FOR MANAGING A COMPONENT

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A system for managing at least one parameter associated with a first component (e.g. a process, a device, an application program etc.). The at least one parameter comprises at least three values corresponding to a minimum value and a maximum value together representing a range and a variable value. The system further comprises a data structure having data associated with the at least one parameter, means for accessing the data structure, means for monitoring the variable value, and means, responsive to the variable value lying within the range, for managing the at least one parameter.

100

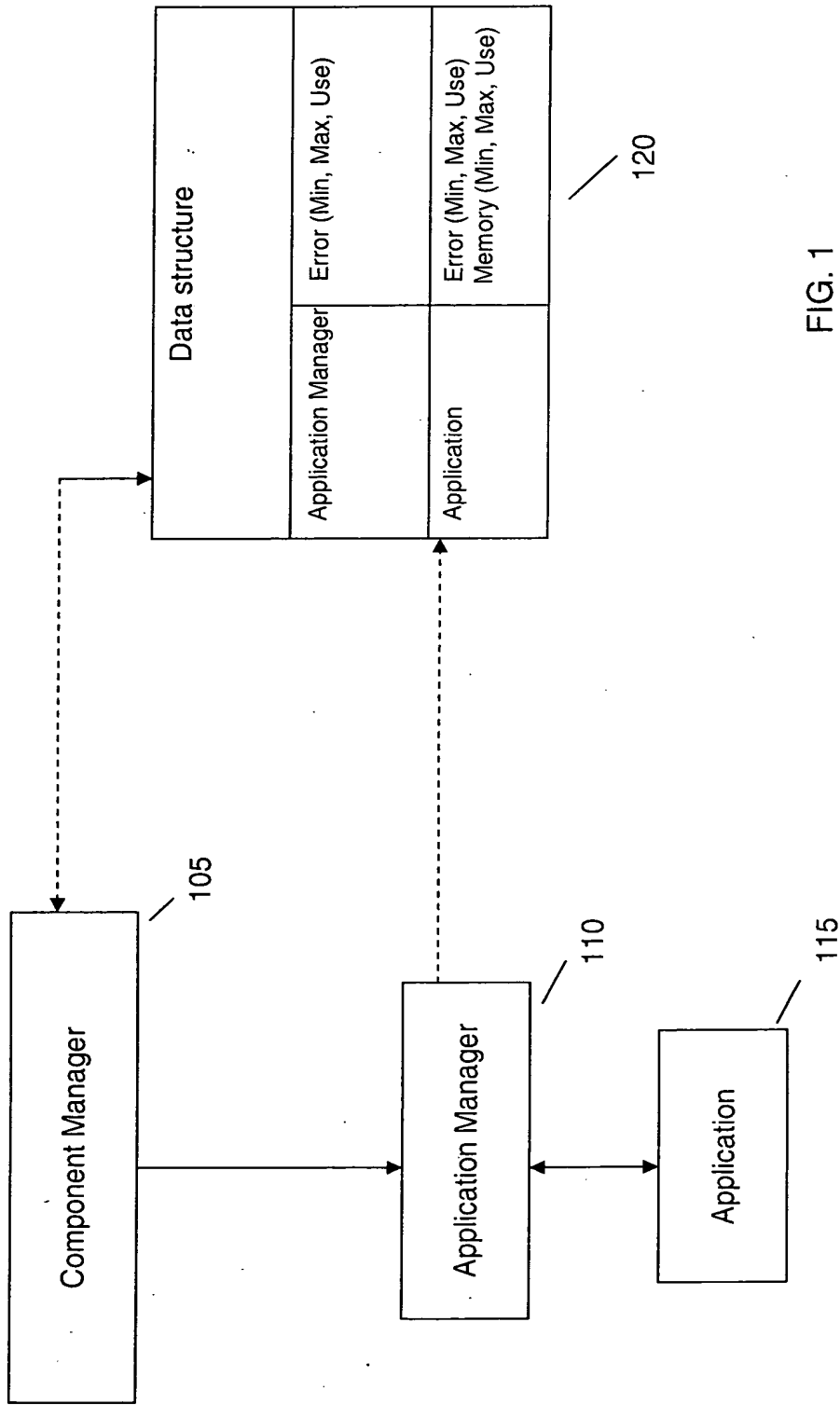


FIG. 1

